

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14 SY-04 USSS-00 EB-12

SCA-01 AID-20 OMB-01 SCCT-02 A-01 NIC-01 FBIE-00

OPR-02 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 088592

O 011930Z OCT 74 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1622

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0293

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 4034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE: DEVELOPMENTS MORNING OF OCTOBER 1

SCHLAUDEMAN-HURWITCH TELECON OCT 1 MORNING

1. CONFIRMING SUBJECT TELECON, FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT OF DEVELOPMENTS ON KIDNAP SITUATION THIS MORNING:
2. BEFORE MORNING DELIVERY OF PROVISIONS TO CONSULATE, I MET AT 9:00 A.M. WITH MSGR. POLANCO, WITH WHOM I TOOK UP FOLLOWING MATTERS.

A. I TOLD HIM I WAS HAVING PRESS STORIES AND EDITORIALS CLIPPED SHOWING UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION OF ACTION AND ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD TAKE INTO THE CONSULATE WITH THE PROVISIONS DELIVERY SEVERAL SUCH SELECTED CLIPPINGS. HE SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DO SO IF POLICE CHIEF GUZMAN AUTHORIZED IT.

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B. WE CAREFULLY REVIEWED WITH POLANCO COUNTERPROPOSAL

TO TERRORISTS' REQUEST TO MOVE THEIR WOUNDED COMRADE TO AN EMBASSY FOR MEDICAL CARE (SD 4026). I SUGGESTED TO POLANCO THAT HE USE THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS IN PRESENTING TO THE TERRORISTS HIS OFFER TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE MEXICAN OR PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO RECEIVE THE WOUNDED MAN IN EXCHANGE FOR FREEING THE THREE WOMAN HOSTAGES. (1) THE WOUNDED MAN WOULD GAIN MEDICAL ATTENTION; (2) HE WOULD ALSO GAIN ASYLUM AND COULD EVENTUALLY LEAVE THE COUNTRY; (3) CONDEMNATION OF THE GUERRILLAS' DEED WAS ALL THE GREATER BECAUSE OF THEIR ACTION AGAINST WOMEN, REMOVAL OF THE WOMEN WOULD RID THEM OF A BURDEN SEVERELY DAMAGING THEIR CAUSE; (4) THEY HAD LITTLE TO LOSE, SINCE THEY WOULD STILL HOLD OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; AND (5) GAINING ASYLUM FOR ONE OF THEIR GROUP MIGHT SERVE AS A PRECEDENT FOR THE OTHERS. POLANCO AGREED TO TALKING WITH MENDEZ ALONG THESE LINES.

3. MY SPANISH AND VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUES AND I SAW POLANCO DELIVERING THE PROVISIONS AT ABOUT TEN O'CLOCK. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH THE PROCEEDINGS FROM A MORE FORWARD VANTAGE POINT THAN PREVIOUSLY, BESIDE A NEIGHBORING HOUSE SITUATED AT AN ANGLE FROM THE CONSULATE. POLANCO AND A POLICEMAN CARRYING THE FOOD APPROACHED THE HOUSE, GOING ABOUT HALF WAY FROM THE SIDEWALK TO THE BUILDING. THE POLICEMAN THEN RETURNED TO HIS STATION WHILE POLANCO WENT A LITTLE FURTHER AND WAITED UNTIL SOMEONE APPEARED AT THE WINDOW. HE THEN EVIDENTLY GOT SOME SIGNAL, WHEREUPON HE PICKED UP THE BOX WITH THE PROVISIONS, CARRIED IT TO THE TOP OF THE PORCH STEPS AND SET IT THERE. WHILE HE STOOD THERE, THE FRONT DOOR OPENED, MENDEZ CAME OUT AND BEGAN TO TALK WITH HIM. AT THAT POINT, THE VENEZUELAN CONSUL CAME OUT THE DOOR AND WAVED TO HIS WIFE, WHO WAS ON THE SIDEWALK OUTSIDE, AND HIS WIFE WAVED BACK (ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION, ONE OF THE DOMINICAN SECRETARIES WAS SEEN SMILING THROUGH THE WINDOW AT THE ENTRANCE). THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN POLANCO AND MENDEZ LASTED ABOUT 12 MINUTES, BOTH OF THEM GESTICULATING WITH THEIR HANDS WHILE TALKING.

4. AFTER POLANCO WITHDREW, HE MET WITH THE THREE OF US NEXT TO HOUSE CLOSE BY AND OUT OF THE PUBLIC VIEW.

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A. POLANCO TOLD US THAT HE HAD MADE THE PROPOSAL ABOUT EXCHANGING THE WOUDED MAN FOR THE THREE WOMAN HOSTAGES BUT MENDEZ HAD TURNED IT DOWN, STATING THAT THE HOSTAGES WERE "ALL TOGETHER." MENDEZ TOLD HIM ALSO THAT CONTRARY TO RADIO AND PRESS REPORTS, THE GROUP HAD NOT CHANGED ITS DEMANDS. POLANCO THEN RELATED TO US A CURIOUS HAPPENING DURING HIS ENCOUNTER WITH MENDEZ YESTERDAY. MENDEZ HAD ASKED POLANCO TO GIVE A PIECE OF PAPER TO THE PRESS. POLANCO RE-

PLIED THAT HE COULD ONLY GIVE IT OT THE POLICE,
WHEREUPON MENDEZ FOLDED THE PAPER AND PUT IT IN HIS POCKET.
AT THAT POINT, SOMEONE BEHIND THE DOOR, WHO WAS ONLY PARTLY
VISIBLE TO POLANCO, SAID: "GIVE IT TO HIM." THEREUPON,
MENDEZ, WITHOUT A WORD, TOOK THE PAPER AGAIN FROM HIS
POCKET AND HANDED IT TO POLANCO. POLANCO DESCRIBED HIM TO
US AS "LIGHT SKINNED, THIN AND TALLER THAN THE AVERAGE
DOMINICAN." (THE POLICE ARE NOW CHECKING THEIR FILES ON THE
BASIS OF THIS DESCRIPTION. POLANCO SAID HE KNEW IT WAS NOT
SANTANO.) POLANCO TOLD US HE HAD NOT READ THE PAPER AND HAD
TURNED IT OVER TO THE POLICE. THUS, IT MAY BE THAT SOMEONE
IN THE GROUP OTHER THAN MENDEZ IS CALLING THE SHOTS.

B. POLANCO GAVE ME ANOTHER LETTER FROM BARBARA HUTCHISON,
THIS ONE IN AN ENVELOPE WITH MY NAME BUT ADDRESSED TO MY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 4034

SECRETARY, ASKING HER TO ASSEMBLE SOME PERSONAL ITEMS TO BE
SENT TO BARBARA VIA THE MSGR. AMONG THE THINGS REQUESTED WERE
SOME CLOTHING ITEMS, A BOX OF WASH 'N DRIES ("NO WATER TO
WASH SINCE FRIDAY"), BOOK MATCHES, SMALL TOWEL AND A PAPERBACK

ENTITLED "IN SEARCH OF THE CZAR" OR, IF THAT COULDN'T BE FOUND, THE ROBERT KENNEDY BOOK. AS FOOTNOTE, SHE WROTE "HOPE SOME 5-GALLON WATER JARS COME TODAY, THIS RATIONING OF PAPER-CUPS (HALF-CUPS) IS VERY TRYING." (I INTEND TO ASK FOR AUTHORIZATION TO GET THROUGH ONE GALLON INSTEAD OF HALF GALLON PLASTIC CONTAINERS OF WATER, SOME PAIL WATER FOR WASHING, AND SOME TOILET FLUSHING AND DEODORANT LIQUID.)

C. THE MSGR. ALSO BROUGHT OUT A LETTER FROM THE VENEZUELAN VICE CONSUL TO HIS WIFE, ONE FROM THE VENEZUELAN CONSUL TO THE CHARGE, AND ONE FROM THE SPANISH PRIEST TO THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR. THE LETTERS FROM THE CONSUL AND PRIEST EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PROVISIONS AND INDICATED THAT MORALE AMONG THE HOSTAGES WAS GOOD.

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5. I AM NOW TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH POLICE CHIEF GUZMAN AND WILL ASK HIM, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WHAT WAS IN THE NOTE MENDEZ WANTED TO BE GIVEN TO THE PRESS. AT 4 P.M., MY SPANISH AND VENEZUELAN COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH POLANCO PRIOR TO HIS PLANNED AFTERNOON DELIVERY OF PROVISIONS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED REPORTS, ON WHICH WE ARE TRYING TO GET MORE DETAILS, THAT THIS DELIVERY MAY NOT BE PERMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING A MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT WITH HIS MILITARY ADVISORS THIS MORNING.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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